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EXAMINER

TRAN, MYLINH T

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

DETAILED ACTION

Applicant's Amendment filed 05/06/08 has been entered and carefully considered. Claim 14 has been amended. However, the limitations of the amended claims have not been found to be patentable over prior art of record, therefore, claims 14-54 remain rejected under the same ground of rejection as set forth in the office action mailed 01/25/08.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 14-54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Stevenson et al. [us. 2004/0236864].

As to claims 14, 27, 37, 41 and 54, Stevenson et al. teaches a computer implemented method and corresponding apparatus for receiving a request for media data at a media access server (a software module) from a media access (page 2, 0012, media source) configured

Art Unit: 2179

as module executable on the computer to provide a media selection mechanism to a plurality of said media access clients (pages 1-2, 0010-0011); identifying one or more stored media items by the media access server (page 2, 0014); identifying one or more stored media lists by the media access server (page 2,0014, media type); and providing information regarding the one or more stored media items and the one or more stored media lists by the media access server to the media access client that are local to the computer (page 2, 0013-0014); receiving information regarding one or more media devices by the media access client from the media access server, wherein the media selection mechanism of the media access server is configured to provide information regarding the one or more media device to a plurality of skid media access clients (0010-0011); categorizing the information regarding the one or more media items and the one or more media devices by the media access client (0010); generating a user interface containing the categorized information by the user interface generator (0013); providing information regarding the one or more stored media items and the one or more stored media lists by the media access server to the plurality of said media access clients to be displayed in a consistent manner by the plurality of said media access clients, one to another, using a common user interface (pages 1-2, 0010-0013).

As to claims 15 and 53, Stevenson also teaches categorizing the

Art Unit: 2179

information regarding the one or more stored media items and the one or more stored media lists (page 1, 0010, 0081).

As to claims 16 and 34, Stevenson teaches the one or more stored media items including audio files (0010).

As to claims 17 and 35, Stevenson also teaches the one or more stored media items including video files (0010).

As to claims 18 and 36, Stevenson further teaches the one or more stored media items including streaming media links (0010).

As to claims 19 and 49, Stevenson teaches the one or more stored media lists including lists of audio files arranged by audio file artist (0048).

As to claims 20 and 50, Stevenson also teaches the one or more stored media lists including lists of audio files arranged by an album associated with the each audio file (0048)"

As to claims 21 and 51, Stevenson teaches the one or more stored media lists including lists of audio files arranged by a genre associated with the each audio file (0047).

As to claims 22 and 30, Stevenson also teaches identifying one or more stored playlists (0040); and providing information regarding the one or more stored playlists to the media access client (0040).

As to claim 23, Stevenson teaches the one or more stored playlists being user-specified playlists (0048).

As to claim 24, Stevenson also teaches identifying one or more media

Art Unit: 2179

devices (0011); and providing information regarding the one or more media devices to the media access client (0011).

As to claim 25, Stevenson teaches the one or more media devices being CD Players (0089).

As to claim 26, Stevenson teaches the one or more media devices being DVD players (0004).

As to claims 28, 29 and 47, the claims are analyzed as previously discuss with respect to claims 14 and 15.

As to claim 31, Stevenson also teaches receiving a user selection entered through the user interface (0013), wherein the user selection has an associated operation (0013); and communicating the associated operation to a media access server (0013).

As to claim 32, Stevenson teaches the media access server performing the associated operation (0013).

As to claim 33, Stevenson also teaches the associated operation being playing a media item (0011).

As to claim 38, the claim is analyzed as previously discuss with respect to claims 14 and 24.

As to claim 39, Stevenson teaches receiving a request to perform an operation from the media access client; and performing the requested operation (0013).

As to claim 40, Stevenson also teaches performing the requested

operation including playing a media item (0011).

As to claims 42, 44, Stevenson also teaches a first user interface generator coupled to the first media access client, wherein the first user interface generator generates a first user interface based on information received from the first media access client (0011); and a second user interface generator coupled to the second media access client, wherein the second user interface generator generates a second user interface based on information received from the second media access client (0011).

As to claim 43, Stevenson teaches a user interface generator coupled to the first media access client; wherein the user interface generator is configured to generate a user interface having the information regarding the identified media items (0012-0013).

As to claim 45, Stevenson teaches the first user interface including information regarding media items stored in the media database (0013).

As to claim 46, Stevenson also teaches the first user interface including information regarding media files stored in the media database, media lists stored in the media database, and information regarding the first media device (0011-0013).

As to claim 48, Stevenson teaches means for generating a user interface containing information related to the at least one media item, at least one media list, and at least one media device (0011-0013).

As to claim 52, the claim is analyzed as previously discuss with respect

to claims 14 and 15.

Response to Arguments

Applicant has argued that Stevenson does not disclose the step of providing media content from a computer to media devices at locations remote from the computer. However, Applicant is corrected that the media devices at locations remote from the computer. However, both the media access client and the media access server are the software modules of the computer system. Applicant's attention is directed to page 2, 0011, cites "A software module for storage on a computer and operable by the computer is provided to receive a media request for a media selection from a media source including video and audio data. The software module also is operable to retrieve the media selection in response to the media request, and to cause the computer to generate a media signal conveying the media selection." The software module is considered as "the media access server" as claimed. "A media request for a media selection" is considered as "the media access client" as claimed.

The software module and the media request for a media selection are local to the computer system. The media access server which is stored media information is the software module of the computer system. The media access client which is received request the media information from users is a software module as well.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mylinh Tran. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Thu from 7:00AM to 3:00PM at 571-272-4141.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Weilun Lo, can be reached at 571-272-4847.

The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are as follows:

Art Unit: 2179

571-273-8300

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Mylinh Tran

Art Unit 2179

/Weilun Lo/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2179